

(323) 881-2401

April 9, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVE THE ATTACHED APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT TO TRANSFER  
FUNDS FROM THE DISTRICT'S APPROPRIATION FOR CONTINGENCIES TO  
SERVICES AND SUPPLIES  
(ALL DISTRICTS AFFECTED) (4 VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR HONORABLE BOARD, ACTING AS THE  
GOVERNING BODY OF THE CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT:**

Approve the attached Appropriation Adjustment to transfer \$2,700,000 from  
Appropriation for Contingencies to Services and Supplies to supplement the Fire  
Department's Air Operations budget.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The purpose of the recommended action is to transfer \$2,700,000 from the District's  
Appropriation for Contingencies to Services and Supplies to supplement the Fire  
Department's Air Operations budget to provide for unanticipated maintenance  
expenditures as a result of increased utilization of Departmental aircraft and unexpected  
major repairs.

The increased usage of our helicopter fleet for fire suppression operations and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) continues to strain our maintenance budget. The fire season started early this year, and we experienced numerous large fires in Los Angeles County including the Copper, Leona, Williams and Pacific Fires. Due to the increased fire activity and continuing major increase in EMS trauma hospital responses, the utilization of Departmental aircraft has increased significantly. These factors, along with unexpected major repairs and the aging of the aircraft, have resulted in a greater frequency of regular maintenance, required inspections and unavoidable major repairs, such as engine overhauls and corrosion/cracking repairs.

The following major factors contributed to the need for this budget adjustment:

- The \$1 million overhaul of two engines planned and funded in last year's budget did not occur until this fiscal year, impacting this year's budget.
- The two Firehawks reached their 500-hour inspection/maintenance sooner than anticipated, resulting in an additional cost of \$165,000.
- The two Bell 412's received major corrosion repairs to their airframes at a cost of \$105,000.
- Increased usage has accelerated the required maintenance schedule with an additional \$1.4 million needed this fiscal year.

This budget adjustment underscores our need for supplemental funding through Measure B. As we reported to the Board on March 17, 2003, EMS helicopter transports have increased 61% for the five-year period of 1998 through 2002, with resulting increases in our maintenance and repair expenditures. Costs incurred by Air Operations for maintenance, repairs, engine overhauls, fuel and insurance have increased as follows:

<b><u>Fiscal Year</u></b>	<b><u>Amount (millions)</u></b>	<b><u>Increase</u></b>
1999-00	\$3.1	-----
2000-01	\$3.8	22.6%
2001-02	\$4.8	26.3%
2002-03	\$7.2*	50.0%

\*Includes this \$2.7 million budget adjustment

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### **IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS**

Approval of the recommended action is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goal #1 Service Excellence and Goal #4 Fiscal Responsibility.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Approval of the Appropriation Adjustment will augment the Fire Department's 2002-03 Air Operations budget by \$2.7 million. Sufficient funding for the Appropriation Adjustment is available in the District's Appropriation for Contingencies. There is no impact on net County cost.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The Chief Administrative Office and the Auditor-Controller have reviewed the recommended action.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

Not applicable.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of the recommended action will enable the Department to continue our efforts to provide fire protection and life safety services to the residents of Los Angeles County.

Respectfully submitted,

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

PMF:MR:yh

Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Officer

Auditor-Controller  
County Counsel



Attachment

BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS  
OFFICIAL COPY

FOR 312M 11/83

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT

DEPT'S  
No. 390-04

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE

March 25, 16 2003

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER.  
THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT IS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THIS DEPARTMENT. WILL YOU PLEASE REPORT AS TO  
ACCOUNTING AND AVAILABLE BALANCES AND FORWARD TO THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR HIS RECOMMENDATION OR  
ACTION.

ADJUSTMENT REQUESTED AND REASONS THEREFOR

4 VOTES

Fiscal Year 2002-03

SOURCES:

Fire Department  
Financing Elements  
Appropriation for Contingencies  
DAL-FR-40109-3303  
\$ 2,700,000

USES:

Fire Department  
Special Operations Bureau  
Services & Supplies  
DAL-FR-40041-2000  
\$ 2,700,000

Approve the attached appropriation adjustment to transfer \$2,700,000 from Appropriation for Contingencies to Services and Supplies to supplement the Fire Department's Air Operations budget.

  
CHIEF, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

REFERRED TO THE CHIEF  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER FOR—

ACTION

✓  
RECOMMENDATION

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER BY

No. 191

  
March 27 2003

APPROVED AS REQUESTED ✓

AS REVISED

March 27 2003   
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

APPROVED (AS REVISED):  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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BY

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK

SEND 5 COPIES TO THE AUDITOR-CONTROLLER